

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

ANNUAL PROPERTY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area



Property Type: State Natural Area

County (Counties): Kenosha

Property Manager:

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Purpose

The purpose of this Annual Property Implementation Plan is to document and share with our publics and partners a summary of the major planned and proposed forest and habitat management treatments, recreation and infrastructure development projects, and other property management actions. Annual Property Implementation Plans include planned treatments as well as scheduled treatments that may not be implemented in the current year but under consideration for future implementation. This Implementation plan includes a summary of habitat restoration projects, timber sales, tree plantings, prescribed burns and development projects including new or expended parking areas, trails, buildings, roads or other infrastructure. Annual Property Implementation Plans do not include routine maintenance or minor actions, including mowing, building maintenance, inventory or field surveys.

Annual actions are directly tied to the property's master plan, which is approved by the Natural Resources Board. Master plans can be accessed online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and searching property planning.

A full list of forest and habitat management treatments can be viewed on the Department's web page by searching "Annual Property Implementation Plan"

The Annual Implementation Plan is divided into sections on

- I. Forest management
- I. Recreation management
- II. Facilities management
- III. Wildlife/fisheries habitat management
- IV. Real estate management
- V. Administration
- VI. Partnerships

Forest Management

- No forest management activities are planned for fiscal year 2019

Recreation Management

- Field Trips:
 - NRF (Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.) Field Trip scheduled for Saturday, May 18th, 2019
- Planned installment of “Ramsar Wetland of International Importance” signage

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Habitat Management

- **Prescribed Burns**
 - Spring burn options: U1BU4 (17 acres), U1BU5 (17 acres), U1BU6 (16 acres), U2BU12A (5 acres), Watertower (24 acres), U7Blk8 (7 acres), U3Blk25 (4 acres)
 - Fall burn options: U1BU4 (17 acres), U1BU5 (17 acres), U1BU6 (16 acres), U2BU12A (5 acres), Watertower (24 acres), U7Blk8 (7 acres), U3Blk25 (4 acres)
 - Fire break / Boundary mowing
 - Mowing of fire breaks will be conducted in the dormant season of spring, winter or fall
 - Breaks and boundaries for possible burn units are first priority
 - Additional goal to mow all breaks and boundaries by houses of Units 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7
- **Invasive Species Management – Woody Control Work**
 - Mowing = 40 acre goal
 - Method: Brush mowing with Skid Steer and Davco Brush Cutter
 - Location: Unit 2
 - Target species: primarily buckthorn and honeysuckle
 - Brush Cutting = 20 acre goal
 - Method: Hand clearing with brush saws and stump treatments using Triclopyr and Glyphosate
 - Timing: Fall / Winter
 - Locations: Block 48, 52, and 53 north (DNR/YCC/Volunteers); Blocks 41 and 34 (contractor)
 - Target species: primarily buckthorn and honeysuckle
 - Chipping of brush piles (contractor) in spring
 - Foliar Herbicide Treatments = 60 acre goal
 - Method: Backpack spraying and ATV spraying in densest buckthorn using Triclopyr, Aminopyralid, and Metsulfuron methyl (Escort) during growing season
 - Timing: Foliar spraying on uplands at sites burned in spring 2019
 - Locations: Blocks 1, 2, 26, 27, 30, 35, 39, and 50 (follow up of brushing/mowing)

- Target species: primarily buckthorn, honeysuckle and locust
 - Split work between LTE's and contractor
- **Invasive Species Management – Herbaceous Control Work**
 - Cutting/Mowing/Pulling/Foliar Treatments
 - Method: Brush cut or DR brush mow sweet clover, dames rocket, reed canary grass and thistle scattered throughout property. Treat using Triclopyr, Aminopyralid, Metsulfuron methyl (Escort), Glyphosate, and Imazapyre
 - Timing: growing season (spring/summer)
 - Locations: Across entire property
 - Target species:
 - Pull sweet clover at Kenosha Dunes
 - Pull Dames rocket throughout property
 - Foliar and cut stump spray garlic mustard, hairy willow-herb, purple loosestrife, and phragmites throughout property
- **Additional Invasive Species Management Efforts by partners**
 - “Strike team” - contractor hired by Lake County Forest Preserve (IL) assists in controlling early detection invasive species
 - YCC crew assists DNR for 2-4 weeks on herbaceous invasive control in summer
- **Ash tree removal / lot tree clearing**
 - Method: Large scale ash tree removal / lot clearing (contractor)
 - Timing: contractor and site conditions dependent
 - Locations: Block 15, Block 22, Block 23, Block 25, Block 48, Block 53, and west half of Kenosha Dunes Unit
 - Target species: Ash, possibly cottonwood, boxelder, locust if removal of all is more cost efficient
- **Surveys / Monitoring**
 - Cover board surveys to be conducted for herps
 - Small mammal trapping in targeted areas
 - Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas surveys
 - Rare plant monitoring in targeted areas

Real Estate Management

Any potential real estate transactions that may occur during 2019 will be strictly conducted under the guidance and direction of the property master plan. Staff may periodically contact landowners within the project boundary to explain the department's land acquisition program and to see if they have an interest in selling their property. Acquisition priorities may vary from year to year and are based on a number of factors, such as resource management or available funding, which may be from a variety of sources.

- Continue to administer land use agreements and access permits.
- Monitor and pursue potential land acquisitions within the project boundary
- Utilize the Land Acquisition Tracking System for documenting potential acquisitions

- **Completed in 2018:**
 - DeGiorgis (93-4-123-292-0435) – 0.59 acres
 - Cizewski (93-4-123-292-0020 & 93-4-123-292-0015) – 0.50 acres
- **In progress:** open conversations with several landowners who have interest in selling or donating undeveloped parcels.

Administrative

- Maintain existing administrative requirements
- Site assessment and shoreline modeling efforts for the Kenosha Dunes Unit will likely begin in 2019 with the assistance of several partners.

Partnership Work

Chiwaukee Prairie SNA is unique in that it exists at the intersection of many partnerships (both in ownership and enthusiasm) and is part of a broader Lake Plain Partnership which includes many of the partners listed below. Partners work together regularly to assist in habitat management efforts, manage contract work, conduct prescribed burns, provide advice and assistance, generate funding to support management and acquisition efforts, and much more.

- **Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund (Friends Group)**
 - Assisting with hand cutting invasive brush removal throughout the property
 - Assisting with invasive herbaceous species control throughout the property
 - Assisting with firebreak maintenance south of 116th Street
 - Assisting with prioritization and acquisition of undeveloped parcels within the project boundary
- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** – Restoration work planned for “Chiwaukee West” property (west of railroad south of 116th Street) including large-scale tree removal efforts, hydrology modeling, reconstruction of wetlands, and establishment of prairie restoration.
- **Lake County Forest Preserve** – Survey work for rare herps south of 116th Street
- **APHIS** – Contracted for predator control trapping south of 116th Street (and onto Illinois public lands) related to rare herp research efforts.
- **UW Parkside** – Utilizing owned lands south of 116th Street for class field trips and research/monitoring efforts throughout the year.
- **Village of Pleasant Prairie (VPP)** – Assists in managing local issues as needed, provides feedback on acquisition targets.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** – Conducting soil surveys for Granby Variants that have loamy subsoil throughout property.
- **United States Geological Survey (USGS)** – Continuation of raptor banding surveys south of 116th Street.